

**Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology
Board Meeting Teleconference
March 16, 2009**

Members John Youngberg, Chairman

Attending: Marty Connell
Jim Davison
Mike Dolson
Todd Graetz
Paul Tuss

Others Dave Desch, Executive Director

Attending: Jane Todd, Administrative Specialist

I. Call to Order

Chairman Youngberg called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from 11/5/08 Board Meeting

Chairman Youngberg asked for discussion of the minutes of the November 5, 2008, Board meeting. There being no discussion, Jim Davison moved to approve the minutes as presented. Marty Connell seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried and the minutes were approved as presented.

III. Election of Chairman

Todd Graetz nominated John Youngberg for re-election as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Paul Tuss. No one opposed the motion, and it carried.

IV. Discussion of proposals submitted 3/2/09 and schedule for making funding decisions

Dave Desch stated that 81 proposals were received by the March 2nd RFP deadline. This is a record and a 19% increase over last year's number, which indicates that interest in the program continues to grow. The Board agreed to use the process that has been used in the past for making funding decisions and discussed suggested dates for upcoming Board meetings.

Action: Jim Davison made a motion to accept the following schedule:

- May 19 and 20 – in-person meeting in Bozeman
- June 17 – presentations to the Board in Bozeman
- June 23 – phone meeting to make final funding decisions

Marty Connell seconded the motion. No one opposed and the motion passed.

Marty Connell indicated a potential conflict of interest in #10-28 Clinical Trials of a Lypolytic Compound and asked to be recused from primary review of that project.

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A brief discussion ensued over the number of proposals and limited funding, which will challenge Board members in their reviewing, and decision-making. Dave Desch pointed out that the annual \$3.65 million statutory appropriation will be made July 2009, out of which approximately \$2.6 million is available for this round of projects. Discussion ensued regarding funding of the MBRCT program and other economic development programs due to sunset in 2010. It was noted that HB123 would extend the sunset to 2019, but would cut program funding from \$3.65 million to \$1.275 million, a reduction of 65%. Concern over the difficulty of reinstating funding once it has been lost was expressed.

V. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VI. Adjourn

Paul Tuss moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Davison seconded the motion and Chairman Youngberg adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Youngberg, Chairman